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## **Bicyclists Celebrate Florida Bike Month on U.S. Bicycle Routes 1 and 90**

**Tallahassee** – As spring begins in the Sunshine State, Florida bicyclists take off on a special trip to highlight Florida's inaugural routes in the U.S. Bicycle Route System. Two bicyclists will begin a ride of U.S. Bicycle Route 1 (USBR 1) on Saturday morning, March 19 from St. Augustine to Key West. The following morning, two other riders will begin a ride of U.S. Bicycle Route 90 (USBR 90) from Crescent Beach to the Florida-Alabama state line.

The two Florida routes became part of the prestigious U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRs) in November 2014. At that time, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) approved U.S. Bicycle Route 1 (USBR 1) which spans 584 miles from Key West to the Florida-Georgia state line. It also approved U.S. Bicycle Route 90 (USBR 90) which covers 424 miles from Crescent Beach to the Florida-Alabama state line.

**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Jim Boxold said, "It's fitting that we show Florida's commitment to the U.S. Bicycle Route System during March which is Florida Bike Month. These bike routes are another reason why Florida set a tourism record last year. It is further proof that Florida is the best place to live, work and play."**

Veteran cyclists Chris and Beth Garrison have cycled from Key West to their home in Titusville, Florida and from there to Canada. Chris will bring his extensive experience with distance touring to the group as he and Beth ride USBR 1. **Beth Garrison said, "We've followed the development of the Florida routes and are excited to be part of this special ride. I hope our ride reminds people here and beyond that Florida is a unique destination to be enjoyed first-hand and close-up."**

Experienced cyclists David Lee and Dennis Scott will ride USBR 90. Lee is the Administrator for Statewide Planning and Policy Analysis at FDOT. He served as Secretary of the U.S. Route Numbering Committee in 1982 when the first two national bicycle routes were approved by AASHTO. Scott served as Florida's Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator until his retirement in 2012. He is an avid cyclist and long-time advocate of bicycle safety.

To date, 11,053 miles of U.S. Bicycle Routes have been established in 23 states. Florida added more than 1,000 miles to the national system in 2014. When complete, the USBRS will encompass more than 50,000 miles of routes and create new opportunities for cross-country travel, regional bicycle touring, and commuting by bicycle.

Adventure Cycling Association's **Ginny Sullivan said, "Florida continues to demonstrate leadership in providing for all modes of transportation and we've enjoyed working in partnership with them on the USBRS."** Adventure Cycling Association is partnering with AASHTO to promote the system and assist in the identification of routes.

Maps and turn-by-turn logs of USBR 1 and USBR 90 in Florida are available at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/usbr>.